Von XXXV No. 10,853.

ALBANY.

THE FIRST MOVE ON THE PRISONS. THE REPUBLICANS FIRST IN THE FIELD-THE MODE OF INVESTIGATION REFERRED TO A COMMITTEE. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

ALBANY, Jan. 11.—The rivalry between the two parties for the privilege of investigating the State Prisons broke out speedily after the publication of the report of the Inspectors in THE TRIBUNE. The Republicans have made the first move, and have gained at least a temporary advantage. At the very first opportunity this morning, in the Assembly, Mr. Sloan, the Republican leader, rose in his place and offered the following resolution:

offered the following resolution:

Whereas, The expenditures for the several State
Prisons during the past ten years have been about
\$5,000,000 in excess of the receipts from earnings; and
Whereas, The annual deficit of \$0.00,000, constituting
a heavy and continuous burdea upon the people, is conclusive evidence that in the system of management, or
in its administration, or both, grave wrongs and almaes
exist which demand thorough scrutiny and complete cor-

rection: therefore

Resolved, That with a view to the mest intelligent action and the most effective and taxing reform the Committee on State Prisons by directed to inquire into the best methed of prosecutions a searching, ricorous, and comprehensive investigation into the management of the prisons, and to report to this House at the earliest practicable period a suitable plan for this purpose.

The State Prison Committee, which is thus intrusted with the important task of determining what form the legislative investigation, if there be any, will take, is one of the weakest committees of the House, and it is a relief to know that the party managers do not contemplate placing the work in its hand. The Committee may report in fa-vor of a special or a joint committee, or even of a commission. Notwithstanding the outcry made about the Canal Commission, several leading Republicans do not hesitate to express their preference for that mode of investigation. They see clearly that the old-fashioned legislative committee, which is usually either a junketing body or an instrument in the hands of men who desire either to break down a reputation, or build up one that has already gone to pieces, has had its day.

The Committee on State Prisons have not organ ized, so that they have as yet no views on that subject; but in case they agree to recommend an investigation by a commission, the members to compose it will be named in the bill, and will not probably be more than three in number, and certainly not more than five. The Governor's friends in the Legislature think that in case a bill is intro-duced for an investigation under the auspices of the Governor the members of the Commission will not be named in the bill, inasmuch as the balance of the Commission might be destroyed by ill-considered amendments in the Legislature. But moderate Republicans, as well as more partisan members, agree in saying the Governor can get no commission from this Legislature. Whether they would yield in their opposition, in case a satisfactory Commission were to be named in the bill, might be more of an open question; but the movement for a committee of their own will enable them to base a refusal on the ground that the Legislature has already taken action in the matter.

THE SUSPENDED AUDITOR RESIGNS. FRANCIS S. THAYER ARGUES HIS CASE AND RESIGNS

-PROMISED REVELATIONS FROM THE PENDING INVESTIGATION-THE RESIGNATION A SOLUTION OF AN EMBARRASSING COMPLICATION.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE ALBANY, Jan. 11 .- When the morning papers told us how George D. Lord wept at his trial yesterday. it was generally conceded that a change of heart must have come over the Canal Ring; but when it was announced that Auditor Thayer had resigned it was felt that piety was indeed abroad. It seems after all, however, not so much piety as prudence. It is said that revelations are already impending over Mr. Thayer that will serve to place his conduct in a darker light even than heretofore. The investigation has already been be gun, and will continue, notwithstanding his resigna-There is little room for doubt that this resignation was the solution by the party leaders of what promised to be a very embarrassing complication. Gee. W. Schuyler, the present Auditor, will be nominated for the place to-morrow. The following is the text of Mr. Thaver's letter:

text of Mr. Thayer's letter:

To this Excellency Samuri. J. Tilden, Governor of the State of New-York.

On the 15th day of April, 1874. I was duly appointed to the effice of Anditor of the Canal Department of the State of New-York. From that time I performed the duties of that effice to the best of my ability until the 28th December, 1875, when I was served with what purported to be a copy of an order of the Governor of the Rate of New-York, duly certified as such copy, and as having been on that day filed in the office of the Secretary of State, whereupon I ceased to act as Auditor. In view of the particular time and chounstances of the service of this paper, I deem it proper here to state the following facts: A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Qual Fand was called for and hold on the 16th day of December, 1875. At this meeting, which seemed to have been arranged for the purpose, certain persons known as members of a Commission for the investigation of alleged frands in the management of the Canals, appeared and made certain statements and presented what they represented as testimony taken before them in reference to certain acts of the Auditor in relation to the purchase of certificates of indebtedness issued by Canal Commissions, whereunon I was suggested that the said hoard should immediately pass resolutions in pursuance of the provisions of Chapter 78 of the laws of 1857, requiring the Governor of Commissioners of the Caminssioners inforce to locario of Commissioners of the Canal Fund. This was refused; and the Commissioners proceeded in their own mainer for four days to cross-examine ms, not only in rogard to the matters communicated to the Commissioners of the Canal Fund, but as to the others, and as to none of which had I had the least opportunity to sive any direct testimony or statements whatever. On the fitth day I was accorded the privilege of having my statement read in evidence, occupying but a few minutes in time, and comprising four pages of the 124 pages of testimony reported, and then I was again subjected to a further cross-examination of great length and rudeness. The Board of Commissioners of the Canal Fund had adjourned to and met on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1875. It was only at the hour of that meeting that either my counsel or myself were furnished with a copy of the testimony taken. Nevertheless the mailer was taken up at once, and after hearing my counsel the Board adopted the following resolution:

Fund had adjourned to and met on Threshy, Dec. 25, 1876. It was only at the hear of that meeting that either up at the mean of that meeting that either up at come, and after hearing my counsed the Board adopted the following resolution:

The Governor, to saspend Francis S. Trayer, the Auditor of the Canal Department, and to append a suitable person to person the devernor to saspend Francis S. Trayer, the Auditor of the Canal Department, and to append a suitable person to person the devernor to saspend Francis S. Trayer, the Auditor of the Canal Department, and to append a suitable person to person the control of the Canal Department, and to append a suitable person to person the development of the Canal Department, and to append a suitable person to be contrary, expressly the delatined any the tension of even expressing an opinion on that subject and simply remitted the whole matter with the testimony to your Excellency was in New York City. However, at about 6 colock of that same afternoon I was supported by the Canal Pund had expressly disclaimed any intention to pass upon the question of my laving violated my duty in respect to appetute with the second of the Canal Pund had expressly disclaimed any intention to pass upon the question of my laving violated my duty in respect to appetute with the second of the Canal Pund had expressly disclaimed any intention to pass upon the question of my laving violated my duty in respect to appetute with the copy of the order of suspension hereiofore referred to the Canal Pund, upon which it purported to be also not to be lard by the control of the Canal Pund had expressly disclaimed any duty which I had neglected, not appetuate that the sixtule under which I had neglected, not appetuate that the sixtule under which I had neglected, not appetuate that the sixtule under which I had neglected to be a supposed without any precision for a trial of the Canal Pund, upon which it purported to be a supposed without any prevision for my restoration to the action of the Easter throu

for your precipitate action. In consequence of this anomalous position in which I thus find myself, and to avoid any embarrasament to the public service, I hereoy resign the office of Auditor of the Canal Department of the State of New-York, to take effect immediately. Respectfully yours,

FRANCIS S. TRAYER.

SENATOR ROBERTSON'S COMMITTEES. THE MINORITY PRETITY WELL! SATISFIED-A FEW SENATORS COULD HAVE WISHED THINGS OTHER-WISE-MANY IMPORTANT COMMITTEES GENER-ALLY COMMENDED.

INVITELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

ALBANY, Jan. 11 .- There were a few changes nade by Senator Robertson after midnight last night in his list of committees as telegraphed to THE TRIBUNE. The transfer of the most importance was that by which Mr. Prince and Mr. Rogers exchanged places, Mr. Prince being placed at the head of the Privileges and Elections Committee, and Mr. Rogers at that of Commerce and Navigation. Mr. Prince had been desirous of heading the latter committee, and it was only at a late hour that the change was made. Senator Moore was placed upon the Finance Committee instead of Senator Coleman, Mr. Rogers succeeds Mr. Harris on Claims. Mr. Bradley took the place of Mr. Kennaday on the Insurance Committee. Mr. Wagner was made Chairman of Public Buildings instead of Mr. Coleman. Mr. Carpenter succeeded Mr. Selkreg on the Committee on Retrenchment. Mr. Morrissey succeeded Mr. Starbuck on the Committee on Villages. Mr. Starbuck succeeded Senator Schoonmaker on Privileges and Elections, and Mr. Hammond took the place of Mr. Schoonmaker on Internal Affairs.

When the Committees were amounced, Mr. Prince arose and declined the appointment of Chairman of Privileges and Elections on the somewhat singular ground that his own district lay close by that for which the principal contest before his Committee would take place, thinking that the relations between the two districts were so intimate that it would be improper for him to serve on the Committee. The declination was tabled.

The minority are better satisfied with their share of the committees than some of the majority. Mr. Prince's dissatisfaction was evident, and Mr. Wellman's friends were equally disappointed at his failure to get the chairmanship of Banks. Senator Woodin's friends, who are still sore over their leader's defeat, are apparently not displeased at this lack of favor with which Senator Robertson's work has been received in some quarters. The Committee on Banks, however, is considered a very good one, baving at its head Senator Coleman, an old representative banker and Chairman of the Banking Committee of the Assembly for two years. The other two members are Senators Wellman and St. John, the latter of whom has been State Treasurer and Bank Superintendent, and had had a wide financial experience.

Of the other committees there is little criticism. Those on finance, canals, insurance, and cities are generally commended, while the Judiciary Committee is the strongest of them all.

Senator Selkreg's appointment to the head of the Railroad Committee was universally expected, though not universally admired. How the average politician looks at it may be judged from the remark of a leading Republican: "Oh, well," said he, "there won't be many strikes before the Railroad Committee this year. It's safe enough."

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SUPERINTENDENT GILMOUR'S REPORT-REPEAL OF THE GRAY NUNS ACT URGED-A CONSTITU-

TIONAL AMENDMENT RECOMMENDED. ALBANY, Jan. 11 .- In his annual report presented to the Legislature to-day, Neil Gilmour, Superintendent of Public Instruction, gives the result of the exminations last December for granting State certificates

The Superintendent then takes up the Gray Nums act and concludes as follows:

I recommend that the act be repealed by a special act, for although it is claimed by many that the later general law repealed the former special act, still as doubt on this point has been expressed, it is better that the act be specially stricken from the status book, so that all tenears in applying for State certificates may be upon the same level and be required to pass the some examination.

The Superintendent then discusses our system of education, under which about \$3,000,000 are annually appertioned for the support of common schools alon After quoting the Constitution and various laws he says:

The Lexislature, during any of its sessions, has power to repeal any one of these wise provisions of law. Great anxiety exists at present among the people in regard to the schools; although the danger may not be immediate, whistom dietates that the evil be prevented offere it has an opportunity to come. There are reports that propositions have already been made, and in some cases accepted, that certain parochial schools not under the control of the State should be used by the trustees or Boards of Education of the districts in which they are located on condition that the teachers should be appointed by those having the control of such schools, or that the course of instruction be subject to their approval. The adoption of such as being to their approval. The adoption of such as being to their approval. The adoption of such as being to their approval. The adoption of such as the text of the course of instruction of our system of public instruction. I carnessity recommend that the Lexislature take such steps as will securely imbed in the Constitution of the State our common schools; as will place them beyond the power of any man, or set of men, party, or seet, to interfere with their adminish working, or in any manner impair their usefulness or tend to their destruction. Let the Constitution be so amended as to make it obligatory that a free, public, non-sectarian system of educa-After quoting the Constitution and various laws he says:

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1876.

to heating, ventilation, and construction, which a board of puolic officers, who were not chosen with reference to such labor, would be ill qualified to decide.

The cost of the Capitol had already greatly exceeded the original estimates. The architect's estimates submitted to the Legislature before the new Capitol was begun, placed the cost of it at a little less than \$4,000,000. When the present Commission entered upon their duties, the building had already cost the sum of \$5,665,963,963,90, and the walls were then raised to the flavor of the principal story. At that time it was said that the architect estimated the cost of completion at between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000. It seemed to the Commission to be an important duty to ascertain what the building would in truth cost, and to report the same to the Legislature, in order that the work might go forward with a proper reference to expenditure, and that the Legislature might determine upon the time within which the structure should be completed, and devise some consistent system of carrying on and administering the work. Besides, estimates were necessary to enable the Commissioners to determine upon the plans and specifications, as they were not willing to lay out of view all consideration of expense, and to go forward without reference to the ultimate cost of the building. For manifest reasons, it was desirable that the estimates of cost should be obtained from persons who should occupy an importial attitited with reference to the structure, and who by their

tion of expense, and to go forward without reference to the ultimate cost of the building. For manifest reasons, it was desirable that the estimates of cost should be obtained from persons who should occupy an importing attitude with reference to the structure, and who by their skill and public reputation should give assurance to the skill and public reputation should give assurance to the Legislature and the people of the State that the estimates had been thoroughly and honestly made.

Upon all of these considerations the Commission determined to call to their aid a saltable number of skilled advisers. The gentlemen selected for this important service were Frederick Law Olmsted, Leopold Edditz, and Henry H. Richardson, all of the City of New-York. The two gentlemen last named are architects of excellent professional standing, and Mr. Olmsted is well known for long and honorable service in connection with the Central Park in New-York, and with similar works in Sproslyp, Buffalo, and other cities. The plans and specifications for the story contaming the Legislative hadis were promptly made and submitted to the Commission, and were approved, after due consideration, on the 4th or August, 1875. Work has been carried on since that date in accordance with these plans, and the portion of the plans and specifications for the remainder of said buildings were submitted to the Commission on the 18th of December, 1875, and the same day were referred to the Advisory Boardsabove named. The examination of the plans and specifications will require much time, and have been interrupted by the changes in the composition of the plans and specifications will require much time, and have been interrupted by the changes in the composition of the Pans and specifications will require much time, and have been interrupted by the changes in the commission to pronounce upon the pians with a due regard to the inverse of the Saie, and to ascertain and report the cost of carrying them into execution under several months.

The Commission, find

unting on the State.

The receipts from the Treasury were \$500,000, the districtions by the present Commission \$491,340 28, he following is a summary of expenditures for the year tht of appropriations for the year 1875......\$1,000,000 meet by J. W. Haton, Superintent prior to organization of privations in the privation of privations of the privation of

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LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS. BILLS IN BOTH HOUSES AS TO EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS

-SALARIES IN NEW-YORK CITY-A NUMBER OF NEW BILLS. SENATE ALBANY, Jan. 11, 1876.

The PRESIDENT presented the annual report f the New Capitol Commissioners.

Also a memorial of the Chamber of Commerce setting forth that in 1875 the Chamber had recommended the appointment of a Superinten-tent of Public Works by the

appointment of a Superintendent of Public Works by the Governor, with the approval of the Senate. The Chamber is glad to see that the Governor referred to the matter in his annual message, and they again urge upon the attention of the Legislature an amendment to the Constitution providing for such an official, and also a small appropriation to increase the depth of water in the canal. Owing to obstructions in the canals, the momerial says, the quantity of arain and flour received the past Year through those channels has decreased 29,381,235 bushels. Bills and resolutions were offered as follows:

By Mr. Cole.—An each eat bill for Jasper Robertson.

By Mr. Robert—Relative to religious societies. The bill proposes to extend the provisions of the acts of Abril 5, 1873, and of the amendments made in Chapter 331 of the Laws of 1875, relative to religious societies, to all religious denominations.

THE ASSEMBLY.

Mr. SLOAN had consent to introduce a resolution that the Committee on State Prisons inquire into the extravagance in State Prison management and report

ntroduced:

By Mr. Gallaguer-To authorize the Ruffale and
Frand Island Ferry Company to increase its expital Grand Island Ferry Company stock.

By Mr. Branter—To incorporate the pension fund of the Polico Department of Brooslyn. Also, to improve Marshall and other streets in Brooslyn.

By Mr. Coffen—To repeat the act of 1875 to alter the Commissioners' map of Brooklyn.

By Mr. Excentioner—Amending the law regulating the rate of interest; also, to amend the Code of Fro-

e. Mr. FALLON-Providing for the removal of dis-

S10,000. By Mr. ENGLEHARDY-Fixing the fate of interest at By Mr. Excited and 1-11mg the rate of in-terest, but not the principal, in case of receiving a greater rate. All conflicting acts are repealed.

By Mr. FLEWSO - Regulating the wages of labor on the public works of the Stale.

By Mr. KILLESS - Amending the act to prohibit persons

By Mr. Killian-Amending the act to promot personal from wearing disgulates and arms. It excepts manuar-ades, etc., from the provisions of the tet. By Mr. Fonstler-Amending the Morrisanta Consolida-tion act; also relative to wills of personal estate; also a supplemental act regulating the storage of combustibles; also placing the citizens of the State on an equality with National banks as to interest. By Mr. West-Fixing the fees of constables and sheriffs.

Mr. FORSTER called up his resolution calling on Con-Mr. Forster called up his resolution calling on Congress for an appropriation to complete the Hariem River, Spuylen Duyvni Creek Improvement, and it was adopted. By Mr. SHERMAN—That the Committee on Civil Divisions inquire into the propriety of abolishing the country of Hamilton, and adding the territory to the adjoining countries, and, if they deem it expedient, to report a bill for that purpose. Agreed to,

By Mr. Hourmoon—That the Committee of Ways and Menus he instructed to in quire into the subject of exemptions from taxation; what property is thus exemptions from taxation; what property is thus exempted, adjourned.

THE BLAME OF THE PACIFIC DISASTER.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 11 .- The proceedings of the secret investigations of the steamship Pacific disaster, by Capt. Waterman and James Hillman, United aster, by Capt. Waterman and James Hillman, United States Inspectors, have been made public. They report that the accident was the fault of the officers of the ship Orpheus, and a consequence of wrong steering. The Inspectors find that it was impossible on the Pacidic of take steps for the preservation of life after the collision, on account of the panic among the passengers. Capt. Waterman seeks to justify his course as inspector of hulls, by declaring that the Pacific was perfectly scaworthy. The effect of the collision upon the steamer is accounted for by the fact that she gave the blow with the bluff of her bow, where the space between the frames in steamers is from 12 to 20 inches; whereas, in sailing ships, it is not more than from three te six inthes. The timbers also are smaller in steamers, and the whole construction lighter. The opinion is expressed that the same effects might have been experienced if the Pacific had been a new vessel instead of an old one.

WASHINGTON.

MR. HILL ON ANDERSONVILLE.

STRANGE SCENE IN THE HOUSE-THE RESPONSI-BILITY OF ANDERSONVILLE CHARGED ON THE UNITED STATES-THE SOUTH NOW BACK IN THE INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Washington, Jan. 11.-Those who went to the House of Representatives to-day, witnessed a strange spectacle. There on the floor, surrounded by nearly a hundred men who sympathized with him, stood an ex-Senator of the Confederate Congress, Benjamin Hill of Georgia, defending the Confederate Government from attacks which had been made upon it, its highest officers from the charge of cruelty to Union prisoners, and charging the crime and outrage of Andersonville upon the policy of the Federal Gov-ernment. The prophet who, ten years ago, should have forefold the events of to-day, would have been looked upon as crazy. Mr. Hill is regarded in the South as one of the strongest men sent from that section to this Congress; and the announcement in the morning papers that he had the floor for to-day drew to the Capitol the customary crowd of curious listeners. Selecting a spot on the Democratic side of the House, from which he could be easily heard, and ranging before him on the desk half a dozen books, from which he was to quote, he entered upon the task as one accustomed to speak in that place. His former service, though long years have intervened since it ended, seemed to make him feel perfectly at home. It is customary on such occasions for about one half of the members of the House to gather around the speaker, standing as thickly as possible, as men gather about a stump speaker; but Mr. Kerr, at the request of a member on the Republican side, requested and insisted that Representatives should keep their seats, and preserve a degree of order not often known in the House. Almost every member was in his seat, and listened to the orator from beginning to end of his

On the character of Mr. Hill's speech it is unneces sary to remark, since a full synopsis of it will reach the public through the regular press reports. It was strong in argument, much stronger than it was supposed a speech on that side of the question could be, and was fortified throughout with quotations from official documents and letters. It was no doubt a strange revelation to more than one veteran Northern Democrat to see the Government of the United States arraigned for sufferings of Union prisoners in the South, to hear an ex-Confederate Senator quote history to prove that the policy of the South was humane and that of the United States brutal. One of the most startling assertions made by the speaker, which he said was supported by the reports of Secretary Stanton and Surgeon-General Barnes, was that of the Confederate prisoners in Federal hands 12 per cent died, while of the Union prisoners in Confederate hands only nine per cent died. The closing portions of the speech will be those most open to criticism. To a Northern man and Republican it will look like the sublimest impudence for Mr. Hill to say that the South did great wrong to the Union by leaving it to fall into the hands of a party which never kept its pledges, and which had denounced it as a compact with hell and league with the devil.

words than he used when he said that the South had come back, was here in this Chamber, and here she proposed to stay. There were here, he said, no Seessionists, no Confederates, but men who in the Union would strive to labor for the good of the country. Nothing could ever drive them again to it the felly of going out of the Union.

As Mr. Hill sat down, the Secretary of the Senate appeared at the bar of the House to announce the leath of Andrew Johnson, and so this most remarkable debate, in which in a sense the battles of the past are being fought over again, was interrupted to pay the customary tributes of respect to the memory of one who was made by it one of the most prominent figures of the age. The debate will be continued to-morrow by Mr. Garfield, and will probably last several days.

THE TRIBUTES TO MR. JOHNSON. UNUSUAL GOOD SENSE AND HONESTY OF THE SENA-TORIAL SPEECHES.

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Jan. 11 .- Eulogies on Andrew Johnson occupied nearly all the time of the Senate to day up to an early adjournment. The first speech was by Mr. Cooper, which was of ordinary character, but delivered Merton was remarkable in many respects. It was a Morton was remarkable in many respects. It was a deserved tribate of respect from a political opponent, and was acceptably deficient in the hypocritical cant and aduation common in obifuary orations. Mr. Morton showed an excellent appreciation of Mr. Johnson's character, and could find enough in him to admire, while at the same time pointing out his mistakes. Mr. McFreery, who speaks too rarely in the Senate, made an eloquent address. Mr. Morton said he voted for Mr. Johnson's impeachment, and had nothing so take back; and Mr. McFreery said to voted against conviction, and he had no apology to offer. The other speeches, about seven in number, were in excellent taste, and were appreciative of Mr. Johnson's character. They lack the fulsome prefixe and empty platitudes usual upon such occasions, and had still another element acceptable to the audience—they were short.

WASHINGTON NOTES. Washington, Tassday, Jan. 11, 1976.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue sustains the circular of the Collector at Boston ordering a discontinuance of the common practice of selling tobacco. cigars, &c., at retail from glass jars, show-cases, &c.

eigars, &c., at retail from glass jars, show-cases, &c. Commissioner Pratt says:

I find nothing therein which needs revising nothing which I can instruct or advise you to with raw. The practice of seiling at retail tobacco and cigars from glass have-cases, etc., the stopping of which seems more particularly to have called forth the protest of dealers, while it may be a very convenient practice to small dealers, and may, if permitted, augment to some extent the revente derived from the sale of special stamps to dealers in manufactured tobacco, it is still a pain and palpable violation of the law. Dealers in tobacco are authorized to sell from properly stamped packages. The liability of such goods so exposed for sale to sellure and forfeiture is not the least of the obstacles which such a practice has to encounter. The person who thus sells does it in violation of Sections 3,363 and 3,403 of the Revised Statutes, and renders aimself liable to the penaltics therein provinced, viz., a fine not less than \$500 or more than \$5,000, and imprisonment not less than \$x months or more than two years.

of the first subjects that will be considered by the One of the first subjects that will be considered by the Monse Committee on the District of Columbia will be a Monse Committee on the District of Columbia guarantees. measure to limit the issue of 3-65 District bon is, guaranteed by Congress. These bonds, it will be remembered have been issued to pay floating debts illegally contracted by the late Shepherd Ring, and to complete contracts outstanding at the time the territorial government was abolished. By a commanication sent to the Speaker of the House te-day by the Commissioners of the District, the amount of these bonds is now, or will be by the first of February, \$14,3:09,863.55, an amount which far exceeds the expectations of those even who had given District affairs the most careful study, and looked on the draftest side of the picture. When it is remembered that the Shepherd government had no legal right to make a contract, or contract a debt for the payment of which money had not already been appropriated, the criminal disregard of law with which they went on may be fully appreciated upon the contemplation of this enormous and still growing amount of bonds. In order to stop the further issue of these bonds, the District Committee will first ascertain on what suthority the new work done during the past year, and paid for in these bonds, has beendone; how much more remains to be done, and what reasons, if any, exist why it should not be at once been issued to pay floating debts, illegally con-

Justice to Mr. Hamlin requires it to be said, that while he has been the favorite candidate of some Senators for the Presidency of the Senate pro tem, he has not himself sought the place, nor even desired it. Nearly all of the advocates of hard money in the Senate would be glad to see an older Senator in Mr. Ferry's place, and one who is sound on the curroncy question, but Mr. Hamlin preferred the election of another man, than to have the place himself.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION.

SENATOR DAVIS OF WEST VIRGINIA TO PREPARE THE SUBJECT TO-DAY.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Senator Davis of West Virginia will submit the following in the Senate tomorrow, and will speak upon the subject to-morrow

or next day:

Whereas, There appears to be material alterations and discrepancies in the official finance reports of the Treasury Department, as to the annual expenditures and re-

ccipts of the Government, and particularly in the reports of 1860 and 1860 to 1872 inclusive, which discrepancies, changes and alterations involve large amounts, and no satisfactory explanation appears on the face of said reports for the same; therefore,

Be it resolved. That a committee of five be appointed to investigate the condition of the books and accounts of the Treasury Department, particularly with reference to discrepancies and alterations in amounts and figures, that have been made in them, especially, in the samual statements of the expenditures of the Government, the revenues collected, and the public debt contained in said reports; and if any such discrepancies and alterations be found to exist, to report the same and the extent and nature thereof, the vests wherein they occur, by what authority made, if any, the reasons that induced them, and to report generally such other and further information bearing upon the subject as to them may seem best, and that

mide, it any, the content and further information bearing upon the subject as to them may seem best, and that said committee have power to send for persons and

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE FRENCH POLITICAL AFFAIRS. SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE MINISTERS-M.

OLLIVIER ASSAULED. LONDON, Tuesday, Jan 11, 1878.

A special dispatch from Paris to this evening's Pail Mail Gazette says the retirement from the Cabinet of M. Leon Say, the Minister of Finance, appears certain notwithstanding the denials published. The other members will probably remain. A Cabinet Council was held at noon to-day at which Marshal MacMahon pre-

The Paris correspondent of The Times telegraphs it is generally believed that the Ministers, while agreeing on the general sense of the programme, will differ in regard to details. On the other hand, in view of M. Du-faure's resolute attitude, Marshal MacMahon and M. Buffet, it is thought likely, will hesitate to embark on a policy which might entail serious results. Pauls, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1876. A Cabinet meeting was held to-day, at which the pro-

posed electoral programme of the Ministry was discussed.

Another council was appointed for to-morrow morning. when it is expected an agreement will be arrived at favorable to the continuance in office of the present Cab-M. Dufaure, the Minister of Justice, has issued a cir-

cular to the Procuraturs-General, saying that the new Press law is solely intended to repress violent language against and insure respect for the Constitution, and is not to touch the liberty of public discussion. The magistrates are therefore recommended not to undertake political prosecutions, as the act only deals with off-uses and moderate throughout. Lospon, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1876.

The Paris correspondent of The Times telegraphs the following:
"I can affirm that the ministerial crisis is not only not settled, but is rather aggravated."

The Paris correspondent of The Times states that in the Cabinet Council yesterday all agreed to the general principles of the programme, but considerable disagreement arose concerning the deductions to be drawn therefrom. MM. Dufaure, Say, and Decazes disapprove of Mr Buffet's letter concerning Marshal Canrobert's nomination to the Senate, and also of his circular of Jan. 6, to the Prefects, in regard to the regulation of the press. M. Buffet openly opposes the candidates of the Left Center and the Moderate Left, whom Defaure and Say as openly patronize.

M. Paul de Cassagnae in an article in Le Pays violently opposes M. Ollivier as a candidate for the Department of Var. Ho says M. Ollivier shows lack of moral sense in putting forward his discredited personality, and his presence in the Assembly would be a calamity to the Im-

EGYPT AND ENGLAND. INSULT TO CONSUL KIBK IN ZANZIBAR-AMPLE APOL-OGY MADE. LONDON, Wednesday, Jan. 12-4:30 a. m.

It is reported that when the Egyptians recently occupied the town of Brava, belonging to the Sultan of Zanzibar, Mr. Kirk, the British Consul in Zanzibar, who went to seek explanations, was obstructed in entering the town by the Egyptian troops. Their commandant refused to apologize for the insult. Mr. Kirk accordingly threatened to order up the British man-of-war Tactis and bombard the town. The Egyptian command ant sent an apology to the Consul an hour before the no-tice of bombardment expired. The Thetis had already taken up her position and was cleared for action.

Consul Kirk, after receiving the apology, obliged the commandant to repeat it before the principal chiefs of the town, and informed him that he would be held responsible for any ill-treatment of the inhabitants or pillage by the Egyptian troops.

> COUNT ANDRASSY'S PROPOSALS. LONDON, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1876.

The Times's dispatch from Paris says the ews received there from England scens to show that British Government is about to give her adhesion to

A telegram from Vienna to The Daily News says the Parte intends to confirm the reforms proposed by the European Powers to Herzegovina, thus avoiding trouble with the incensed Mohammedan majority in Bosnia.

SUPPOSED LOSS OF THE HARVEST QUEEN. LONDON, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1876.

A name board marked "Harvest Queen" has on washed ashore near Carnsore Point, Ireland, and some large yards near Bannow, in the same vicinity. The American ship Harvest Queen, Capt. Jansen, left San Francisco Aug. 25 and arrived at Queenstown Dec. 29 she sailed again for Liverpool on the 5th of January, and it is feared that she has been lost wish all hands.

CHURCH AND STATE IN GERMANY. Lospos, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1876.

The Pall Mail Gazette's Berlin telegram says the Government has determined to liberate Cardinal Le-dochowski unconditionally at the expiration of his term sgain arraigned if he attempts to exercise his episcopal functions or otherwise infringes the ecclesiastical laws.

Madrid, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1976.
The Epoca in reply to the article in The London Times holding the Spanish Government responsible for any injury done British vessels by Carlist battéries says Spain can do nothing beyond punishing the authors of damage to foreign shipping.

TWEED SUPPOSED TO BE IN MONTREAL. MONTEAL, Jan. 11.-William M. Tweed is said to have been seen on Thurday last in a store on Noti Dame st. There is good reason to believe he is at present living with friends to the upper part of the city.

THE CREW OF THE BARK LENNIE. Brest, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1876.

Seven of the crew arrested for mutiny on the bark Leunie have been acquitted by a vote of five to two. The seamen Vandernort and Jolly have been de tained in custody and sent before the Maritime Prefect

FOREIGN NOTES. CALCUTTA, Jan. 11 .- The Prince of Wales and suite have arrived at Delhi.

London, Jan. 11 .- The weather to-day in London and vicinity is snowy. London, Jan. 11 .- The failure is announced

to-day of Messrs. Charles Boundy & Co., metal merchants of Birmingham. Their liabilities are £167,000 sterling LONDON, Jan. 11 .- The Times this morning has reason to believe that the Queen will personally open the sessions of Parliament accompanied by the

OTTAWA, Jan. 11 .- To-day was appointed by an order in council as the day on and after which the judicial functions of the Supreme Court shall take effect to be exercised.

HALIPAX, N. S., Jan. 11 .- A second yacht club has been organized here under the title of the Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron. The Governor-General has ac-cepted the office of Commodore.

London, Ont., Jan. 11.—The first passenger train passed over the London, Huron and Bruce Railway, from London to Wingham, yesterday. The formal opening of the road takes place to-day.

OTTAWA, Jan. 11 .- It is understood that the question of the route for the British Columbia portion of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been settled, and that the Government will be enabled to make arrangements for the commencement of the work during the coming

THE PLYMOUTH AGITATION.

PREPARING FOR THE COUNCIL.

MOULTON'S ADVISERS GATHERING ELEMENTS HOSTILR TO MR. BEECHER-A PLYMOUTH VIEW OF THE MATTER-SOME OF THE CHURCHES IN-VITED-WHO INSPIRED MRS. MOULTON'S LET-

The conference that was expected to take

place yesterday between Mr. Shearman and Mr. Van Cott in reference to inviting the churches and delegates

who are to form the Mutual Council was postponed until to-day at Mr. Van Cett's desire. The members of the Plymouth Committee decline absolutely to state what churches have been or will be invited, but a prominent member of Plymouth Church said yesterday that among the churches which had received an invita-tion from Mrs. Moulton beside Dr. Scudder's were Dr. Storra's, Dr. Budington's, and Dr. Taylor's (the Broadway Tabernacle). It was evident, he said, that it only such churches as they believed would be predisposed against Plymouth Church and Mr. Beecher. They had made a mistake in the case of Dr. Scudder's church, because they had depended on what they thought to be the opinions of Dr. Scudder and Mr. Stone. Drs. Storrs and Budington had been invited because it was well known that they had been fighting Plymouth Church for a ong time. Considering the disposition of both of those elergymen, it would be a disgrace if their churches oined in the Conneil. Their invitation had a deep mean ing, and it was the keynote of the whole Council on Mrs. Moulton's part. If they attended the Council, it would be considered by Mr. Beecher's friends a "packed" council. There would be no difficulty in managing Dr. Storrs's Church, said the Plymouth member, for he was a old meetings and manage affairs, and only let his chosen friends know of it. These gentlemen had been Mrs Moulton's real counselors all along. Dr. Storrs had managing. Dr. Budington had been the real author of Mrs. Moulton's letters to the church. He had prepared their contents and informed the spirit of them, and Gen. Pryor, who had the credit of having written them, had done nothing more than to copy them off in his own handwriting. The Rev. Dr. Dexter of Boston had undoubtedly been invited on behalf of Mrs. Moulton, because he was thought to be inimical to Plymouth Church. Mrs. Moulton and also invited Mr. Coc, Secretary of the Home Mission Society, but he had declined to attend on account of his official position, and another society secretary, who had been invited on benalf of Plymouth Church, had likewise declined on the same grounds. The list was thus changing every day, and it was a very difficult matter to get it

docided beyond any chance of change.

In regard to the powers of the Mutual Council the same gentleman said that it could not decide finally on the questions to be submitted to it. The Church would not be bound by its action. It could only give advice, which might be accepted or rejected as the Church saw fit, and a subsequent Council might be called which would reverse its advice. The only authority attaching to its decision would be the moral weight which it might have. The question it was called to decide was not whether the church had done right according to its rules in dropping Mrs. Moulton as it did, but whether the church ought to have such rules at all. The practice prevailed in all the Congregational Churches and memers had been dropped in the same way from the churches of Dr. Storrs and Dr. Budington. Plymouth Church had the rules written down-that was the only difference. It was a question between old and new Congregational usage. Formerly the doctrine was, once a member always a member unless removed by death, excommunication, or letter to another church. The recent usage has been to give members a chance of withdrawing at their own option and by vote of the church, and this liberal policy had been marked in the case of Plymouth church.

NOTICE OF DEMUREER SERVED-THE ARGUMENT TO TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH-GEN, BUTLER RE-TAINED.

The following notice of demurrer in the suit

of Francis D. Moulton against Mr. Beecher was served on Gen. Pryor by Messrs. Shearman and Sterling yester-

day:

Supreme Court-Francis D. Moulton, plaintiff, sgt.

Henry Ward Beecher, defendant.

The detendant demars to the complaint herein upon
the ground that, as it appears upon the face thereof, the
complaint does not state facts sufficient to constitute a
cause of action.—New York, Jun. 11, 1876.

SHEARMAN & STERLING, Defendant's Attorneys.

Accompanying the above was a notice of trial, as fol-

Supreme Court—Francis D. Moulton against Henry Ward Beecher.—Please to take notice that the Issue of law in this action shall be brought to trial at a Special Term of this Court appointed to be held in and for the County of Kings, at the Court-house in the City of Brooklyn, on the 4th day of February, 1876, at 10 o'clock in the Court appointed the 1th day of Janeses of that day. Dated the 1th day of Janeses

the foremon of that day. Dated the 11th day of January, 1876. Yours, &c.,
SHEARMAN & STERLING, Attorneys for Defendant.
To Roger A. Pryor, esq., Attorney for Plaintiff.
A counter notice of trial was immediately returned by Gen. Pryor, and the date of the argument of the demurrer was thus finally fixed for Feb. 4.

The theory upon which the defendant's counsel base their demurrer is that the noile prosequi entered in the suit of Mr. Beecher against Mr. Moulton was not a final termination of the action, and not a judicial determination of the questions involved in it, and con-sequently that no other action will lie on acof it. According to this theory the District-Attorney could revive the suit against Mr. Moulton if he saw fit to do so. The theory is not, as has been stated, that the nolle prosequi was, in effect, an acquittal of Mr. Moulton, and consequently that no damage had resulted to him. The demurrer was the result of a conference between Mr. Shearman and Gen. Pryor. Both of those gentlemen agreed that it would be waste of time ant legal question of the effect of the noile prosequi,

which the judge would be sure to bring up at once. It is authoritatively stated that Gen. Benjamin P. Butler, who was in this city yesterday, has been retained as associate counsel with Gen. Pryor for Mr. Moulton. It is not probable that Gen. Butler will appear on the

STILL ANOTHER ASTEROID. WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 .- Prof. Förster reports the

discovery by Herr Knorre of a planet of the twelfth magnitude, in 7 h. 13 min. right ascension, and 229 magnitude, in 7 in otion north.

12' declination; motion north.

Joseph Hesey, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution,

A JURY IN THE LANDIS CASE.

Bamgeron, N. J., Jan. 11.-The Landis trial was resumed this afternoon. Considerable difficulty was experienced in securing a jury, and the panel was almost exhausted when the last juror was obtained. The de-fense challenged 20 and the prosecution 10, and four

were set aside or excused by the Court.

The whole-sale challenging was resorted to in order to prevent Grangers, whose societies had pussed resolutions reflecting on the prisoner, from serving on the jury, and reflecting on the prisoner, from serving on the jury, and to debar others who had expressed opinions. The prisoner looked quite heggard, and much concerned. He was attended by his sister. Several exceptions to the judge's rulings in regard to jurors were taken. The jury having been inip ancest, the Judge informed them that it would be necessary for them to be kept together, in order that they might hold no communication with any one. Tomorrow moraing, James R. Hoagland, the prosecuting attorney, will open the case.

THE DAIRYMEN IN CONVENTION.

ROME, N. Y., Jan. 11 .- The eleventh annual covention of the American Dairyman's Association began its session in this city this morning with a large attendance. The morning session was occupied in organization. The afternoon session was easied to order by the President, ex-Gov Reymour. The convention was first addressed by Artenus Ward of Philadelphia, his paper addressed by Artemus Ward of Philadelphia, his paper being general and humorous. Papers were also read by C. L. Sheldon of Lewis County, J. G. Cohoe of Chautauqua, and Seth Bonfoy of Herkimer. Prof. L. Wetherell of Boston addressed the evening meeting upon dairy stock. L. T. Elisworth of Barre, Mass., read a paper showing that good butter and good cheese could both be made from the same milk by heating to 1209. Animated discussionatook place between the reading of the papers. The Convention will adjourn on Thursday.

EATON & MILNE'S STATEMENT. FALL RIVER, Mass., Jan. 11 .- At a meeting of the creditors of the suspended bankers, Eaton & Milne-to-day, the latter exhibited liabilities of \$358,541 80 and assets of \$330,231 75, of which \$36,075 29 is real estate. A Committee of fifteen was appointed to report a plan of actilement. It is believed the firm will pay in full.